WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for decontaminating contamination containing biological spores, comprising the steps of:

contacting the contamination with a spore germination composition comprising dipicolinic acid and calcium ions effective to cause germination of the spores; and,

applying a decontaminating solution to kill the germinated spores.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of contacting the contamination with the spore germination composition effective to cause germination of the spores simultaneously with the step of applying a decontaminating solution to kill the germinated spores.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of contacting the contamination with the spore germination composition effective to cause germination of the spores occurs prior to the step of applying a decontaminating solution to kill the germinated spores.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 50 mM to about 90 mM dipicolinic acid.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the calcium ions comprise calcium chloride.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 50 mM to about 90 mM calcium chloride.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 60 mM to about 80 mM calcium chloride.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 0.8% w/w to about 5% w/w dipicolinic acid of the total spore germination composition.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition further comprises water.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 50% w/w to about 98% w/w water.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition further comprises

a surfactant.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactant and nonionic surfactant.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the surfactant comprises at least one carbon chain of from about six carbon members or more.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the surfactant comprises from about 5% w/w to about 15% w/w of the total spore germination composition.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the decontaminating solution comprises enzymes.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the decontaminating solution comprises a peroxygen compound.

17. A germination composition for decontaminating biological spores, comprising dipicolinic acid and calcium ions.

18. The germination composition of claim 17, wherein the calcium ions are supplied by calcium chloride.

19. A decontaminated surface made by the process comprising the steps of:

contacting a surface with a spore germination composition comprising dipicolinic acid and calcium ions effective to cause germination of the spores; and,

applying a decontaminating solution to kill the germinated spores.

20. A method for decontaminating a chemical-biological agent comprising the steps of:

solubilizing the chemical-biological agent with a microemulsion having a plurality of surfactants; and,

decontaminating the solubilized chemical-biological agent with a peracid.